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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 11 November 2002 from the representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Charter of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Agreement on the legal status of the Organization adopted by the Presidents of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, on 7 October 2002 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22 of the fifty-seventh session, "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations".

(*Signed*) Movses **Abelian**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Armenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Aleg **Ivanov**
Acting Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Belarus to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Madina **Jarbussynova**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kamil **Baialinov**
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

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(*Signed*) Sergei **Lavrov**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

Annex

Charter of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

The States Parties to the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992 (hereinafter — "the Treaty"),

Acting in strict accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions of the United Nations Security Council, and guided by the universally recognized principles of international law,

Seeking to establish favourable and stable conditions for the full development of the States Parties to the Treaty and to ensure their security, sovereignty and territorial integrity,

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Treaty and the international agreements and decisions adopted within its framework,

Determined further to develop and intensify their military and political cooperation in the interests of ensuring and strengthening national, regional and international security,

Setting themselves the objective of maintaining and nurturing a close and comprehensive alliance in the foreign policy, military and military technology fields and in the sphere of countering transnational challenges and threats to the security of States and peoples,

Guided by their intention to enhance the effectiveness of their activities within the framework of the Treaty,

Have agreed on the following:

Chapter I
Establishment of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Article 1

The States Parties to the Treaty hereby establish the international regional Organization of the Treaty on Collective Security (hereinafter — "the Organization").

Article 2

The provisions of the Treaty and of international agreements and decisions by the Council on Collective Security of the Treaty adopted in the interests of the Treaty's further development shall be binding on the member States of the Organization (hereinafter — "the member States") and on the Organization itself.

Chapter II
Purposes and principles

Article 3

The purposes of the Organization are to strengthen peace and international and regional security and stability and to ensure the collective defence of the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the member States, in the attainment of which the member States shall give priority to political measures.

Article 4

In its activities the Organization shall cooperate with States which are not members of the Organization and shall maintain relations with international intergovernmental organizations which are active in the field of security. The Organization shall promote the formation of a just and democratic world order based on the universally recognized principles of international law.

Article 5

The Organization shall operate on the basis of strict respect for the independence, voluntary participation and equality of rights and obligations of the member States and non-interference in matters falling within the national jurisdiction of the member States.

Article 6

This Charter shall not affect the rights and obligations of the member States under other international agreements to which they are party.

Chapter III
Areas of activity

Article 7

In order to attain the purposes of the Organization, the member States shall take joint measures to organize within its framework an effective collective security system, to establish coalition (regional) groupings of forces and the corresponding administrative bodies and create a military infrastructure, to train military staff and specialists for the armed forces and to furnish the latter with the necessary arms and military technology.

The member States shall adopt a decision on the stationing of groupings of forces in their territories and of military facilities of States which are not members of the Organization after holding urgent consultations (reaching agreement) with the other member States.

Article 8

The member States shall coordinate and harmonize their efforts in combating international terrorism and extremism, the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and arms, organized transnational crime, illegal migration and other threats to the security of the member States.

The member States shall carry out activities in these areas in close cooperation with all interested States and international intergovernmental organizations, and primarily under the auspices of the United Nations.

Article 9

The member States shall agree upon and coordinate their foreign policy positions regarding international and regional security problems, using, inter alia, the consultation mechanisms and procedures of the Organization.

Article 10

The member States shall take measures to develop a treaty-law base that will govern the functioning of the collective security system and to harmonize national legislation relating to questions of defence, military construction and security.

Chapter IV
Organs of the Organization

Article 11

The organs of the Organization shall be:

(a) The Council on Collective Security (hereinafter — "the Council");

(b) The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs;

(c) The Council of Ministers of Defence;

(d) The Committee of Secretaries of the Security Council.

The permanent working organ of the Organization shall be the Secretariat of the Organization (hereinafter — "the Secretariat").

The functions and working procedures of the organs indicated above shall be governed by this Charter and by separate Regulations adopted by the Council.

Article 12

Decisions of the Council, the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Council of Ministers of Defence and the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils concerning issues other than procedural questions shall be taken by consensus.

Each member State shall have one vote. The voting procedure, including that relating to procedural questions, shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure of the organs of the Organization, as approved by the Council.

The decisions of the Council and decisions by the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Council of Ministers of Defence and the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils for the implementation of Council decisions shall be binding on the member States and shall be implemented according to the procedures established by national legislation.

Article 13

The Council shall be the highest organ of the Organization.

The Council shall consider the main questions concerning the activities of the Organization, shall take decisions aimed at achieving its objectives and purposes and shall ensure coordination and joint action between member States for the achievement of those objectives.

The Council shall consist of the Heads of the member States.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Defence and Secretaries of the Security Councils of the member States, the Secretary-General of the Organization,

plenipotentiary representatives of the member States to the Organization and invited persons may attend meetings of the Council.

The Council shall have the power to establish permanent or temporary working and subsidiary bodies of the Organization.

The Chairman of the Council (hereinafter — "the Chairman") shall be the Head of the State in the territory of which the current session of the Council is taking place, unless the Council decides otherwise. He shall retain his rights and obligations for the period until the next regular session of the Council.

If the Chairman is unable to perform his functions, a new Chairman shall be elected for the remaining period.

During the periods between sessions of the Council, questions of the coordination of the joint activities of member States in implementing the decisions taken by the organs of the Organization shall be taken up by the Permanent Council of the Organization (hereinafter — "the Permanent Council").

The Permanent Council shall consist of plenipotentiary representatives (hereinafter — "Plenipotentiaries") appointed by the member States in accordance with their domestic procedures and shall operate in accordance with the Regulations adopted by the Council.

Article 14

The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs shall act as the Organization's advisory and executive organ on questions of the coordination of the joint activities of the member States in the field of foreign policy.

Article 15

The Council of Ministers of Defence shall act as the Organization's advisory and executive organ on questions of the coordination of the joint activities of member States in military policy, military structures and cooperation in military technology.

Article 16

The Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils shall act as the Organization's advisory and executive organ on questions of the coordination of the joint activities of member States in the provision of their national security.

Chapter V
Secretariat

Article 17

The Secretariat shall provide organizational, information, analytical and advisory services for the activities of the organs of the Organization.

Jointly with the Permanent Council, the Secretariat shall carry out the preparation of draft decisions and other documents of the organs of the Organization.

The Secretariat shall be composed of nationals of the member States (officials) according to a quota based on the proportion of a member State's contribution to the Organization's budget, and nationals of the member States (employees) appointed under contract on a competitive basis.

The functions, establishment conditions and duties of the Secretariat shall be defined by the relevant Regulations adopted by the Council.

The Secretariat shall be located in Moscow, Russian Federation. The conditions of the Secretariat's presence in the territory of the Russian Federation shall be governed by the corresponding international agreement.

Article 18

The Secretary-General of the Organization (hereinafter — "the Secretary-General") shall be the highest administrative official of the Organization and shall be the head of the Secretariat.

The Secretary-General shall be appointed by decision of the Council for a period of three years, on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, from among the nationals of the member States.

The Secretary-General shall be answerable to the Council and shall participate in the meetings of the Council, the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Council of Ministers of Defence, the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils and the Permanent Council.

The Secretary-General shall, in accordance with Council decisions, coordinate the preparation of the relevant draft proposals and documents of the organs of the Organization and maintain working contacts with other international intergovernmental organizations and with States which are not members of the Organization.

The Secretary-General shall be the depositary of this Charter, of other international agreements concluded within the framework of the Organization and of instruments that are adopted.

Chapter VI
Membership

Article 19

Membership of the Organization is open to any State which shares its purposes and principles and is prepared to undertake the obligations set forth in this Charter and other international treaties and decisions which are in effect within the framework of the Organization.

Decisions on admission to the Organization shall be adopted by the Council.

Any member State may withdraw from the Organization. After settling its obligations within the Organization, such State shall send to the depositary of the Charter official notification of its withdrawal no later than six months before the date of withdrawal.

The procedure for admission to and withdrawal from the Organization shall be determined by the relevant provisions of the Regulations adopted by the Council.

Article 20

In the event of non-fulfilment by a member State of the provisions of this Charter, decisions of the Council or decisions of other organs of the Organization which have been adopted for implementation, the Council may suspend its participation in the work of the organs of the Organization.

In the event of persistent non-fulfilment of the above-mentioned obligations by a member State, the Council may take a decision to expel such State from the Organization.

Decisions on such matters in relation to a member State shall be taken without counting its vote.

The procedure for suspension of the participation of a member State in the work of the organs of the Organization or its expulsion from the Organization shall be determined by the Regulations adopted by the Council.

Chapter VII
Observers

Article 21

Observer status to the Organization may be granted to States which are not members of the Organization and also to international organizations on the basis of an official written application addressed to the Secretary-General. Decisions on granting, suspending or terminating observer status shall be taken by the Council.

The participation of observers in sessions and meetings of organs of the Organization shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Organization.

Chapter VIII
Legal capacity, privileges and immunities

Article 22

The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each member State such legal capacity as is necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purposes.

The Organization may cooperate with States which are not members, maintain relations with international intergovernmental organizations which are active in the field of security, and conclude with them international agreements for the establishment and development of such cooperation.

The Organization shall possess juridical personality.

Article 23

The privileges and immunities of the Organization shall be determined by the corresponding international treaty.

Chapter IX
Financing

Article 24

The work of the Secretariat shall be financed from the budget of the Organization.

The budget of the Organization shall consist of assessed contributions from member States approved by the Council.

The budget of the Organization may not have a deficit.

The draft budget of the Organization for each budgetary year shall be drawn up by the Secretariat in agreement with the member States in accordance with the Regulations on the procedure for the formation and implementation of the budget of the Organization. The budget of the Organization shall be approved by the Council.

The Regulations on the procedure for the formation and implementation of the budget of the Organization shall be approved by the Council.

Each member State shall bear the expenses associated with the participation of its representatives and experts at conferences and meetings of the organs of the Organization and in other activities carried out within the Organization, and also the expenses associated with the activity of its Plenipotentiaries.

Article 25

In the event that a member State fails for two years to meet its obligation to pay its dues to the budget of the Organization, the Council shall take a decision regarding suspension of the right to nominate nationals of that State for quota posts in the Organization, and also regarding termination of the right to vote in organs of the Organization until the dues are paid in full.

Chapter X
Final provisions

Article 26

This Charter is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of deposit with the depositary of the last written notification of ratification by the signatory States.

The depositary shall notify the States which have signed this Charter of the receipt of each notification of ratification.

Article 27

With the general consent of the member States, amendments and additions may be made to this Charter, and shall be drawn up in separate protocols.

Protocols on amendments and additions to the Charter shall form an integral part thereof and shall enter into force in accordance with the provisions of article 26 of this Charter.

Reservations to the Charter are not permitted.

Any disputes regarding the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Charter shall be resolved through consultations and negotiations between the member States concerned. In the event that agreement cannot be achieved, disputes shall be referred to the Council for consideration.

Article 28

The official and working language of the Organization shall be Russian.

Article 29

This Charter shall be registered with the United Nations Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Done at Chişinău on 7 October 2002, in a single original in the Russian language. The single original shall be kept by the depositary, which shall send a certified copy thereof to each State which has signed this Charter.

For the Republic of Armenia
[*Signed*]

For the Republic of Belarus
[*Signed*]

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
[*Signed*]

For the Kyrgyz Republic
[*Signed*]

For the Russian Federation
[*Signed*]

For the Republic of Tajikistan
[*Signed*]

Agreement on the legal status of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

The States Parties to the Treaty on Collective Security,

On the basis of the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992 (hereinafter — "the Treaty"),

Guided by the universally recognized principles of international law,

Wishing to ensure the necessary conditions for the effective achievement of the purposes and principles of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (hereinafter — "the Organization"),

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder:

"The Parties" — the States Parties to this Agreement;

"The member States" — the member States of the Organization;

"The Council" — the Council on Collective Security established in accordance with chapter IV of the Charter of the Organization;

"The receiving State" — the member State in the territory of which the Secretariat of the Organization is located or carries out its work;

"The organs of the Organization" — the Council on Collective Security, the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Council of Ministers of Defence, and the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils of the member States of the Organization;

"Representatives of member States" — representatives of member States of the Organization, including heads and members of delegations participating in activities carried out within the framework of the Organization;

"The Secretariat" — the permanent working organ of the Organization;

"The Secretary-General" — the highest administrative official of the Organization, heading the Secretariat, and appointed by the Council;

"Officials" — persons approved under the procedure laid down by the Organization after being nominated by member States of the Organization in accordance with the quotas of posts established for each member State, in the list determined by the Council;

"Employees" — persons working as specialists in the Organization on the basis of contracts concluded with them;

"Premises of the Organization" — all premises, buildings or parts of buildings used for the official purposes of the Organization and provided to the Organization by the receiving State;

"Family members" — spouse, minor children and dependents of the Secretary-General, officials or employees of the Organization.

I. Legal capacity, privileges and immunities of the Organization

Article 2

The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each member State such legal capacity as is necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with the Charter of the Organization.

Article 3

The property and assets of the Organization shall be inviolable. They shall have immunity from every form of administrative or legal process, except for cases when the Organization itself waives its immunity.

The premises of the Organization, and also its archives and documents, including official correspondence, wherever located, shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or any other form of interference.

Representatives of the relevant authorities and administrative bodies of the receiving State may not enter the premises of the Organization, except with the consent of the Secretary-General or his deputy.

Any actions decided upon by the relevant authorities and administrative bodies of the receiving State may be carried out in the premises of the Organization only with the consent of the Secretary-General or his deputy.

The premises of the Organization may not serve as a refuge for persons being prosecuted under the law of any of the Parties or subject to extradition to a member State or a third State.

The inviolability of the premises of the Organization shall not give rise to the right to use them for purposes incompatible with the functions of the Organization or detrimental to the security of the Parties or the interests of their physical or juridical persons.

The receiving State shall take the appropriate steps to protect the premises of the Organization against any intrusion or damage.

Article 4

The Organization shall be exempt in member States from direct taxes and charges, duties and other payments other than those that represent payment for specific services rendered.

Articles and other property intended for the official use of the Organization shall be exempt in member States from the imposition of customs duties, taxes and related charges, other than charges for cartage, storage, customs registration in places other than those established for the purpose or outside the working hours of the competent customs organ and similar services under the procedure envisaged for other international organizations. Their use for other purposes, including their sale or transfer, shall entail the payment of customs duties and compliance with other formalities in accordance with the legislation of the receiving State.

Article 5

With regard to its official communications, the Organization shall enjoy treatment that is no less favourable than that accorded by the receiving State to diplomatic missions.

Article 6

The Organization may place the flag, emblem or other insignia of the Organization on premises occupied by it and use them on official vehicles. The placement of the insignia of the Organization in other locations shall be subject to agreement with the receiving State.

Article 7

The Organization, while complying with the legislation of member States, may, in accordance with its purposes and functions, issue and disseminate printed matter, the publication of which is envisaged by decisions of its organs.

Article 8

The receiving State shall assist the Organization in acquiring from its budgetary resources and on the basis of commercial contracts the necessary premises for the performance of its functions.

Article 9

The Organization shall engage in continuous cooperation with the authorities and administrative bodies of member States with a view to preventing any abuse of the privileges and immunities envisaged in this Agreement.

II. Privileges and immunities of the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization

Article 10

The Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization are international civil servants and shall not seek or receive instructions from authorities of officials of the Parties.

Each Party undertakes to respect strictly the international character of the functions of the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization and not to seek to influence them.

Article 11

The Secretary-General and members of his family forming part of his household, if they are not nationals of the receiving State, shall enjoy privileges and immunities to the extent envisaged in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961.

Article 12

Officials of the Organization and members of their families forming part of their household in the receiving State shall:

(a) Be immune from criminal, civil and administrative liability in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;

(b) Be exempt from taxation on the salaries and other emoluments paid by the Organization;

(c) Be immune from all national service obligations;

(d) Be immune from immigration restrictions and alien registration;

(e) Be exempt from payment of customs duties, taxes and related charges on articles and other property intended for their first installation, other than charges for cartage, storage, customs registration in places other than those established for the purpose or outside the working hours of the competent customs organ, and similar services. The use of the aforementioned articles and property for other purposes, including the sale or the transfer of the use thereof, shall entail the payment of customs duties and compliance with other formalities in accordance with the legislation of the receiving State;

(f) Enjoy the same privileges with regard to repatriation as are enjoyed by diplomatic representatives at times of international crisis.

Subparagraphs (b), (d), (e) and (f) shall not apply to officials and members of their families who are nationals of or permanently resident in the receiving State.

Officials of the Organization and members of their families who are nationals of the receiving State shall be exempt from military service if, at the request of the Organization, the competent organs of the receiving State grant the said officials the necessary deferment.

Article 13

The Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization shall not be entitled to engage, for personal profit or the profit of others, in any commercial or other activity other than a scientific, artistic or educational activity.

Persons who are exempt from taxes in the receiving State in accordance with articles 11 and 12 of this Agreement shall, if they receive income from any of the activities referred to in this article, declare the aggregate income received from such activity and pay taxes in respect of it in accordance with the legislation of the receiving State.

Article 14

The Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization shall comply with the provisions of the legislation of the receiving State with respect to insurance against injury or damage which may be caused to the health or property of third parties from the use of any means of transport.

Article 15

Officials and employees of the Organization shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the receiving State in respect of acts committed by them in the direct performance of their official functions except in the case of:

(a) An action relating to compensation for damage in connection with a road transport accident caused by a vehicle belonging to the Organization or belonging to or driven by an official or employee thereof;

(b) An action relating to death or bodily injury caused by an act of an official or employee of the Organization.

Officials of the Organization who are not nationals of the receiving State shall be immune from immigration restrictions and alien registration.

Article 16

Documents of officials or employees of the Organization shall be inviolable in the receiving State at any time and irrespective of the repository of the information.

Article 17

Residences occupied by officials and employees of the Organization who are not nationals of the receiving State shall be inviolable in the receiving State and shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution.

Article 18

The privileges and immunities enjoyed by the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization are granted to them not for their personal benefit but for the effective and independent exercise of their official functions in the interests of the Organization.

Article 19

The Secretary-General, officials and members of their families shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for in this Agreement from the moment they enter the territory of the receiving State on proceeding to take up their posts or, if they are already in its territory, from the moment when the Secretary-General or the officials commence carrying out their duties.

When the functions of the Secretary-General or an official have come to an end, his privileges and immunities, as well as the privileges and immunities of members of his family forming part of his household, shall normally cease at the moment when he leaves the receiving State or on expiry of a reasonable period in which to do so, depending on which occurs first.

The privileges and immunities of members of the family of the Secretary-General or of an official shall cease when they cease to be members of his family. If such persons intend to leave the receiving State within a reasonable period, their privileges and immunities shall subsist until the moment of their departure.

In the event of the death of the Secretary-General or of an official of the Organization, the members of his family forming part of his household shall continue to enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to them until the moment

when they leave the receiving State or until the expiry of a reasonable period in which to do so, depending on which occurs first.

Article 20

Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying privileges and immunities under this Agreement to respect the legislation of the receiving State. They also have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of that State.

Article 21

The Organization may waive the immunity of one of its officials when, in the view of the Organization, immunity would impede the course of justice and could be waived without prejudice to the purposes for which it was granted. In the case of the Secretary-General, the Council shall have the right to waive immunity.

Waiver must be express.

III. Privileges and immunities of representatives of member States

Article 22

Representatives of member States shall, while exercising their official functions and while proceeding to the place where they are to take part in activities organized by the Organization in member States, enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

(a) Immunity from personal arrest or detention and from the jurisdiction of the receiving State in respect of all acts done by them in that capacity;

(b) Inviolability of their residence;

(c) Exemption from customs inspection of accompanying luggage and hand luggage, unless there are serious grounds for presuming that it contains articles and other property not intended for official or personal use or articles and other property the import or export of which is prohibited or controlled by the legislation of the member State. When such an inspection is necessary, it shall be conducted only in the presence of the representative of the member State in question or his authorized representative;

(d) Exemption from immigration restrictions and alien registration.

Article 23

The privileges and immunities enjoyed by representatives of member States are granted to them not for their personal benefit but for the effective and independent exercise of their official functions in the interests of the Organization.

Representatives of member States shall not, in the receiving State, engage, for personal profit or the profit of others, in any commercial or other activity other than a scientific, artistic or educational activity.

Article 24

The premises occupied by representatives of member States, their furnishings and other property and the means of transport used by them in the exercise of their functions shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution.

Article 25

Documents of representatives of member States shall be inviolable at any time and irrespective of the repository of the information.

Article 26

The sending member State may waive the immunity of its representative when, in its opinion, immunity would impede the course of justice and immunity could be waived without prejudice to the purposes for which it was granted.

Waiver must be express.

If the sending member State does not waive the immunity of its representative in respect of civil proceedings, it shall make every effort to ensure a just judgement in the case.

The initiation of proceedings by a representative of a member State shall preclude him from invoking immunity from jurisdiction in respect of any counter-claim directly connected with the principal claim.

IV. Conditions of work and social security

Article 27

The conditions of work of the Secretary-General and officials and employees of the Organization shall be determined by the Organization.

The conditions of work of the technical and service personnel of the Organization shall be governed by the national legislation of the receiving State.

Article 28

Social security (insurance) benefits for the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization and members of their families shall be determined and paid in accordance with the system established by the legislation of the receiving State during the period in which the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization are exercising their official functions. The funds for social and medical insurance shall be deducted from the budget of the Organization in accordance with the legislation of the receiving State.

Article 29

Pensions shall be paid to the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization in accordance with the legislation of the member States of which they are nationals. Pensions established by the legislation of member States shall be paid from the budget of the Organization in the respective currency of the member States of which the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization are nationals.

The costs of the pensions of the Secretary-General, officials and employees of the Organization shall be borne by the member States of which they are nationals.

Article 30

In determining pensions or social security (insurance) benefits, the period of employment as Secretary-General, official or employee of the Organization shall be included in the term of insurance or length of service in accordance with the legislation of the member State of which he is a national.

V. Final provisions

Article 31

Disputes concerning the application or interpretation of this Agreement shall be settled by means of consultation and negotiation between the interested Parties.

Article 32

This Agreement is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of deposit of the last written notice of ratification with the depositary, who shall be the Secretary-General.

Article 33

This Agreement shall remain open for accession by any State which becomes a member of the Organization in accordance with article 19 of the Charter of the Organization. The instruments of accession to this Agreement shall be deposited with the depositary.

For a State acceding to this Agreement, it shall enter into force on the date of receipt by the depositary of written notice of ratification.

Article 34

Any Party may withdraw from this Agreement by sending written notice to that effect to the depositary.

This Agreement shall cease to have effect with respect to that Party on the expiry of six months from the date of receipt of such notice by the depositary.

Article 35

Amendments and additions may be made to this Agreement. They shall be drawn up in a separate protocol and shall form an integral part of this Agreement. Any of the Parties may propose amendments and additions by sending a notice to that effect to the depositary.

Protocols regarding changes and additions shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force in accordance with the provisions of article 32 of this Agreement.

Done at Chişinău, on 7 October 2002 in a single original in the Russian language.

The single original of this Agreement shall be kept by the depositary, who shall send a certified copy thereof to each State which has signed this Agreement.

For the Republic of Armenia:
[*Signed*] R. **Koicharian**

For the Republic of Belarus:
[*Signed*] A. **Lukashenko**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:
[*Signed*] N. **Nazarbaev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic:
[*Signed*] A. **Akayev**

For the Russian Federation
[*Signed*] V. **Putin**

For the Republic of Tajikistan:
[*Signed*] E. **Rakhmonov**